

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

March 29, 2011

IMPLEMENTING THE COUNTYWIDE YOUTH SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

Los Angeles County remains committed to preserving permanency in a child's/youth's family of origin, whenever it is safe and secure. For those children/youth who must enter out-of-home care, it is our commitment that they exit the system as part of a safe and permanent family, while benefiting from the most strategic preparation for adulthood and the most customized network of community connections to support their future success as adult members of society. However, despite all of our best efforts to ensure that youth who age-out of care are fully prepared to be successful and thriving adults, "aging out" without permanency and/or adequate preparation for adulthood continues to be a crisis.

In order to remedy this, on my March 2, 2010 and December 7, 2010 motions, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established "**Youth Self-Sufficiency**" as a Countywide Goal; and eighteen (18) County departments and community partners embraced the idea of working together; establishing new partnerships, testing pilot programs and activities, and making policy changes.

On March 2, 2011, the Chief Executive Officer issued a report informing this Board of the **Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Action Plan**, which details the culmination of this landmark endeavor. The plan represents the start of a seamless inter-departmental service delivery model for children, from the ages of birth to 21, through which service compartmentalization can be corrected; funding streams can be blended; and policies and case practice can be synchronized as a result of prioritizing system-involved children and youth, rather than bureaucracy, at the center of planning. Through fifty-five (55) new and innovative actions, with specified performance measures and target

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dates, the plan proposes to **use only existing resources Countywide** to integrate changes in the policies and practices of each affected department towards outcomes improvements in (1) permanency/ housing; (2) social/emotional well-being; (3) education; and (4) career/workforce readiness for system-involved children and youth.

Considering how far we have come, we must imagine how much further we can go. While we cannot change the past, we must spare no further time in shaping the future. "Aging out" has become the unintended casualty of well-meaning permanency law, policy and practice. Aging-out without permanency is preventable. However, aging-out without either permanency or sufficient preparation for adulthood is **unacceptable**.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directs the Chief Executive Officer to:

- (1) Implement the Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Action Plan and monitor its implementation progress;
- (2) Report back in 30 days on the structure by which it will monitor the implementation progress of the Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Action Plan, maintaining a child/youth-centered focus on inter-departmental budgetary and service integration; housing development and placement management; AB 12 protocol development; and accountability/evaluation reporting;
- (3) Report quarterly thereafter for one year on the progress of implementing the 55-point Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Action Plan, **which utilizes only existing resources Countywide**; and
- (4) At the end of the one-year reporting period, provide a comprehensive evaluation report on the longitudinal impacts of the Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Plan upon the youth served.

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